However, the Department of Telecommunications had filed appeal in Delhi High Court against certain decisions of the TRAI. The Delhi High Court had given the verdict in favour of the Department of Telecom.

Investment in Telecommunication Sector

521. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the announcement of telecom policy by previous Congress Government, high level delegations from various countries met the then Communication Minister showing keen interest in the telecommunication sector in the country;

(b) whether the successive Governments have changed/modified the telecom policy; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for dampening the response of investors in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There has not been any change/modification in the National Telecom Policy of 1994.

However, Govt. has recently constituted a Group on Telecommunications to resolve various issues concerning Basic & Cellular Services providers.

भोपाल और विदिशा के बीच सीधी डायल प्रणाली

522. **श्री राघवजी:** क्या **प्रधान मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) विदिशा-भोपाल और भोपाल-विदिशा के बीच सीधी डायल प्रणाली शुरू न करने के क्या कारण है;

(ख) यह प्रणाली कब तक शुरू किए जाने की संभावना है; और

(ग) इस प्रणाली को शुरू किए जाने में विलंब का क्या कारण है?

संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कबीन्द्र पुरकायस्थ): (क) से (ग) 180 सेकेण्ड पल्स पर सीधी डायलिंग प्रणाली तभी प्रदान की जाती है जब:—

(i) दो कम दूरी प्रभारण केन्द्रों के बीच अरीय दूरी 20 कि०मी० (विशेष मामले में 30 कि०मी०) तक हो।

(ii) जब, दो कम दूरी प्रभारण क्षेत्रों की सीमाएं आपस में सटी हुई हों।

चूंकि, विदिशा और भोपाल एसडीसीसी के बीच की अरीय दूरी 20 कि०मी० से अधिक है, और दोनों एसडीसीए एक दूसरे के समीप भी नहीं है, इसलिए 180 सैकेण्ड पल्स दर पर सीधी डायलिंग की व्यवस्था करना व्यवहार्य नहीं है। अतः विदिशा और भोपाल के बीच सीधी डायलिंग एसटीडी पर उपलब्ध है।

Investment in Communication Sector in North-East Region

523. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether multinational companies are not willing to invest in communication sector in the North-East Region (NER);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have shown interest in their investment proposals in NER; and

(d) if so, the details of the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) The multinational companies have shown willingness to invest in the telecom projects in the NER. The details are given at **Annexure.**

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, after the opening up of Telecom sector, Department of Telecom has issued license to a number of companies for operating Value Added Telecom Services viz. Cellular Mobile Telephone and Radio Paging Services Multinational companies like Nynex, Mauritius, PTT Telecom Netherlands, Easy Call Communication Philippines Telesystems, Mauritius etc, are the joint

venture partners in the India Company providing such services in Assam and North-East Telecom Circle as given in the Statement (*See* below).

Statement

List of Major Multinationals which have been issued Licences to provide Telecom Services in North-East and Assam Telecom Circles.

Multinational/Foreign Company	Indian Joint Venture Company	Service	Area
Nynex Internatinal Mauritius	Reliance Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	Cellular Mobile Telephone Services	Assam North-East Telecom Circles
1. Mobile Telecom, Mauritius 2. PCM (Mauritius), Mauritius 3. Telesystem Pvt. Ltd., Mauritius	Hexacom	Cellular Mobile Telephone Service	NE Telecom Circle
Easy Call Communications, Philippines	Easy Call Communications (India) Pvt. Ltd.,	Radio Paging Service	Assam and North East Telecom Circle
PTT Telecom, Netherlands	Netherland India Communications	Radio Paging Service	Assam Telecom. Circle

Demand of Public STD Phones in Andhra Pradesh

*524. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total demand for public STD phones in Andhra Pradesh, presently;

(b) the number of applications pending presently alongwith the number of applications expected to be cleared in 1998-99;

(c) the number of applications pending in West Godavari district; and

(d) by when they will be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) The demand for STD PCOs in addition to the presently working in Andhra Pradesh in 35255.

(b) The number of pending applications in Andhra Pradesh is 35255 out of which 6000 are expected to be cleared during 1998-99.

(c) 1385.

(d) The applications in West Godavari are expected to be cleared by March, 2000.

Optical Fibre Cable in Vizianagaram District

525. SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the laying of optical fibre cable to Kurupam and G.I. Puram in Vizianagaram districts has been sanctioned;

(b) if so, the time by which the work will be completed;

(c) whether the digital equipment and all other accessories pertaining to the said work has been despatched; and